

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 AID-20 DRC-01 /114 W

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R 260520Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5132

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

COMUSSAG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 2836

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, SPOP, CB

SUBJECT: NATIONAL CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

REF: PHNOM PENH 2638

1. EMBASSY OFFICER ATTENDED A FEB 23 CONSCRIPTION MEETING AT WHICH SECOND VICE PREMIER AND DEFENSE MINISTER MG THAPPANA NGINN ORDERED RENEWED EFFORTS TO ROUND-UP DRAFT DODGERS AND DESERTERS AND A NEW INFORMATION/PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN TO PRECEDE A REVAMPED CONSCRIPTION DRIVE TO BE LAUNCHED AFTER TABULATING CENSUS INFORMATION. IN ADDITION HE EMPHASIZED THAT DRAFT BOARDS (CONSEIL DE REVISION) HAVE BEEN BADLY RUN AND URGED CHANGES IN PERSONNEL AS NECESSARY. HE TOLD THE GROUP THAT A RECRUITMENT CENTER CAPABLE OF HANDLING UP TO 500 MEN/DAY IS NECESSARY AND SUGGESTED THE PRESENT CENTER BE MOVED TO A NEW SITE AND EXPANDED.

2. REFERRING TO THE CONCLUSIONS OF A FEB 21 WORKING MEETING AT CHAMCAR MON STATE PALACE, GENERAL THAPPANA NGINN NOTED THAT FANK'S RECENT MILITARY SUCCESSES CAN ONLY BE EXPLOITED IF THE ARMY HAS SUFFICIENT MANPOWER. RECRUIT-
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MENT, HE SAID, IS NOW THE DECISIVE CHALLENGE FOR FUTURE

SUCCESS. HE DEMONSTRATED HIS CONFIDENCE IN CONSCRIPTION CHIEF OF STAFF BRIGADIER GENERAL YONG YOC HANG BY AUTHORIZING HANG TO ACT ON CONSCRIPTION IN HIS ABSENCE AND TO CHAIR MEETINGS IN HIS NAME. THAPPANA NGINN NOTED ABUSES IN THE PRESENT CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN WHICH INCLUDE "PERMANENT" TRAINEES AT SOME TRAINING CENTERS, AND LATE OR NO PAY AT BOTH TRAINING CENTERS AND AFTER RECRUITS ENTER UNITS. HE SAID HE WAS APPROACHING FANK C-IN-C SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ TO SEEK PERMISSION FOR THE MIXED CONSCRIPTION STAFF TO MONITOR AND CORRECT THESE ABUSES.

3. PM COMMANDER HEM SIVETH TOOK FIRE FOR THE SO FAR LACKLUSTER DRAFT DODGER/DESERTER ROUND-UP AND REVEALED HIMSELF AS A QUIBBLER OVER TRIVIA UNWILLING OR UNABLE TO GRASP THE ESSENTIALS. THAPPANA NGINN WAS QUITE FORCEFUL AND LEFT NO DOUBT IN ANYONE'S MIND THAT RECRUITMENT IS ESSENTIAL AND WORK MUST START NOW EVEN BEFORE NEW CENSUS FIGURES ARE TABULATED.
ENDERS

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